

## Applegate Emigrant Trail “Year” Definitions For Hugo Region

On June 20, 1846, The South Road Company organized again to explore and find a trail from the Willamette Valley over the Cascade Mountains to near Ft. Hall on the Snake River, which was suitable for covered wagons.



*Oregon-California Trails  
Association Map*

On August 9, 1846, a large group of wagons set out west from Fort Hall to follow the new Applegate Trail (Trail) for the first time to the Willamette Valley. By mid-October, 1846 the emigrants were traveling up the south

rugged mountainous terrain on the Trappers’ Trail toward the unnamed Mt. Sexton Pass (ca., 450 - 500 persons).<sup>1</sup>

- **1846 - 1847** Applegate Trail Wagon Companies.<sup>1</sup>
- **1848** Burnett wagon train of 150 men with 46.<sup>2</sup> wagons left Oregon for the gold fields of California.
- **1853** approximately 700 men, women and children took this route.<sup>3</sup>
- **1861** Lindsay Applegate with 42 volunteers.<sup>4</sup>
- **1869** The Trail in 1869 through Hugo was known as the Southern Oregon Wagon Road.<sup>2</sup>
- **1873** During the Modoc War of 1872 - 1873 portions of the Trail saw considerable U.S. Army troop movement.<sup>3</sup>
- **1883** Most emigrants by wagon until the train.
- **1909** Much later, until 1909 in fact, that portion of the old trail south of Lower Klamath Lake witnessed a great deal of freight traffic.<sup>3</sup>

## Range of Years: 1846 - 1883

Alternate Emigrant Trail Definitions exist for the Hugo region in Oregon from the Rogue River to Grave Creek. Because of the mixture of use, the HETC’s policy is that all use was emigrant use and/or had some emigrant use (e.g., emigrants, gold miners, military, stage coach, freighting, etc.) until the dominate use of the automobile.

**Purist Alternative 1: 1846 - 1847** This alternative is specific to the first two years the Trail was used with the majority of documentation in the form of “Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences”.

**Donation Land Claim Alternative 2: 1846 - 1857** This alternative covers the 1840s through the donation land claim (DLC) period from 1850 - 1855 and the surveys of the DLCs through 1857.

**Military Road Alternative 3: 1846 - 1880** There were three

main federal appropriation and construction periods for the U.S. Military Wagon Road From Myrtle Creek to Camp Stuart: 1. 1853 - 1854, 2. 1857 - 1858, and 3. 1879 - 1880.

**Pre-Railroad Era Alternative 4: 1846 - 1883** The railroad was completed to Grants Pass, Oregon from Roseburg with the first official train 12/02/1883.



1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society, and Sexton Enterprises. February 2, 2010. *1846 & 1847 Applegate Trail Wagon Companies In Hugo Region*. Brochure 1B of Trail Fords Brochure Series. Hugo, OR (<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/applegatetrailfords.htm>).  
2.

## Range of Years Was Wagon Use Until Railroad Use

**Pre-Automobile Era Alternative 5: 1846 - ca., 1913** With the slogan, “*Get Oregon Out of the Mud,*” the 1913 Oregon Legislature established the Oregon Highway Department. The year 1913 is used as the index year for when automobiles started using roads alongside wagons in a significant way.

In 1904 John H. Williams was to have the distinction of owning the first automobile in Grants Pass, Oregon. The automobile changed life in rural Hugo, Oregon, at first for the rich and later for everyone. The Model T greeted the masses in 1908 and revolutionized American society.

**Pre-Paved Highway Era Alternative 6: 1846 - 1921** The Pacific Highway became the first paved highway in northern Josephine County in 1920 - 1921. Wagons were still using the road.

**CONSENSUS VIEW OF HETC** Our research has led us to the consensus alternative for the Applegate Trail that its primary emigrant use was from 1846 - 1883, even though small parties and individual families continued their overland migrations by covered wagon into the twentieth century until the dominate use of the motor vehicle. This is also the view of the Oregon Historic Advisory Council.<sup>5</sup>

**More Information** Contact a member of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee.

3. Klamath County Historical Society. 1972 *Applegate Trail*. Chapter II, pages 8 - 17. Klamath Echoes. Klamath Falls, OR.  
4. Bancroft. *History of Oregon* (by Leta Neiderheiser).  
5. Oregon Trail Coordinating Council. May 1998. *Oregon Historic Trails Report*. Compiled by Karen Bassett, Jim Renner, and Joyce White. page 11. Salem, OR.

## Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo is blessed with a rich heritage of historic roads, rough though they were. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* was formed to bring together all those who want to learn more about the early transportation in the area, from the casual admirer to the dedicated researcher. Its aim is to collect and record information about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1850s General Land Office mapped roads, and to share this information (e.g., through *Hugo History Day*, talks, hikes, group visits, training exercises, workshops, publications, web sites, etc.).

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader  
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### *Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences SubCommittee*

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## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area. Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings.

### *Hugo Neighborhood*

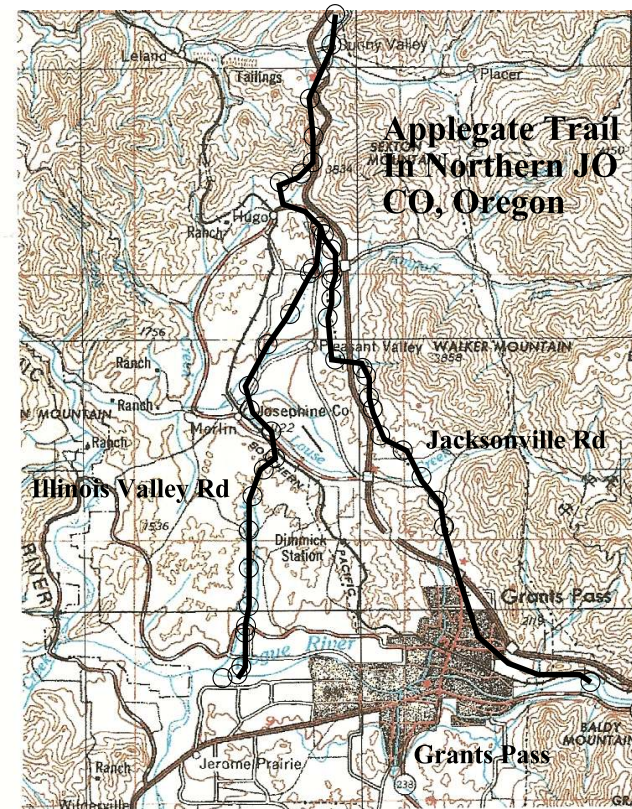
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## Applegate Trail/Road Emigrant Year Definition: 1846 - 1883



Brochure 4H of Applegate Trail GLO  
Surveys Brochure Series



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Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee  
Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society